

# Man begs to be taken to hospital in second delay

Ambulance hold-up due to injuries not being deemed a priority

by Matt Dathan

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A man begged paramedics to take him to hospital after his hand was injured in a collision with a lorry in Finchley Road on Friday.

The incident near to Swiss Cottage Tube station happened at the same spot where an injured 83-year-old woman waited more than an hour for an ambulance to arrive two days earlier.

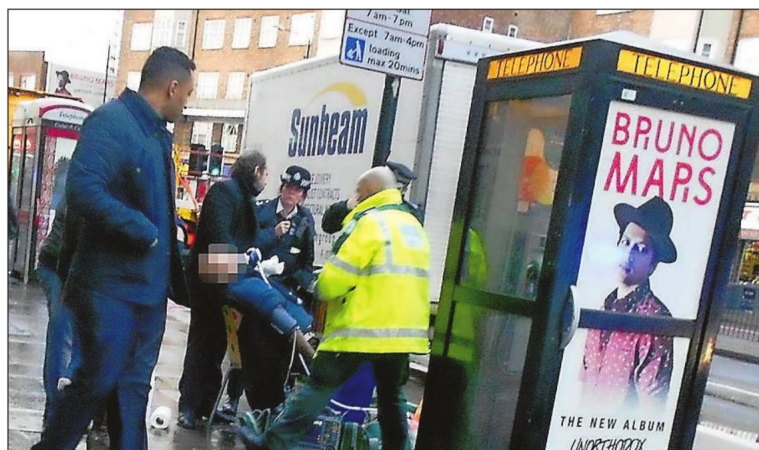
The man, who was the passenger in a car, was opening the door when his hand was hurt.

Paramedics arrived on the scene nine minutes after the call, but it took 50 minutes for an ambulance to arrive. The man, believed to be in his 30s, was heard pleading with paramedics: "Please take me to hospital, I'm begging you."

But the medics said they were unable to do so without an ambulance.

The ambulance had still not arrived half an hour later and the medics drove the man to the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead.

The driver of the lorry, who asked not to be named, told the *Ham&High*: "He opened the door as the van was going past and his hand got stuck. I was driving down the road and as I was driving past he opened the door as my lorry was half-way past him."



■ The injured man was treated by paramedics before being taken to hospital

Jyoti Julka, who owns a hardware shop at SAI 108, in Harben Parade, heard a scream. She provided an umbrella, blankets and tissues to stop the flow of blood while the injured man waited for an ambulance.

A spokesman from the London Ambulance Service confirmed the man was treated for a cut to his hand at the scene and said the delay in the ambulance's arrival was due to prioritising more serious call-outs.

The spokesman said: "The man was treated on scene and then he [the para-

medic] said his pain score was zero out of 10 and that's why the ambulance wasn't dispatched immediately.

"We need to keep those for the people who are in life-threatening situations."

No arrests have been made and enquiries continue.

The incident came just two days after an 83-year-old woman who took a tumble in Finchley Road was left stranded on the freezing pavement for more than an hour as she waited for an ambulance.

## Doorstep muggers jailed

A gang of violent robbers who preyed on celebrities and wealthy businesswomen have been jailed for a total of 53 years.

The masked gang used stolen luxury cars with false number plates to prowl around some of the capital's wealthiest districts, including Hampstead and Hampstead Garden Suburb, looking for victims.

They followed their victims to the doorsteps where

they were robbed.

Banker Elizabeth Kaye, of Temple Fortune Lane, and Jennifer Boschetto, of Heath Drive, Hampstead, were both bundled to the ground and stripped of thousands of pounds worth of jewellery, Southwark Crown Court heard. The victims told how they are still haunted by the memories of the masked muggers pouncing on them as they arrived home.

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■ Cook Kerstin Rodgers hosted a Hobbit Day for foodies. From left guests, Margaret Rodgers, John Rodgers, Marco Ferrari, Sophia Luvar, Joelle McNichol and (centre) Kerstin Rodger

## Hobbit fans go 'underground' for Middle Earth feast

JRR Tolkien fans packed into a "hobbit hole" in Highgate to enjoy a day of Middle Earth feasting.

On Saturday punters stooped through the entrance of a yurt in Priory Gardens, to sample everything from Elvish bread, made from Icelandic moss, to honey cakes, based on food mentioned in the author's books.

The recipes were dreamed up by Kerstin Rodgers, the founder of the Supper Club movement, who delved into the *Lord Of The Rings* and *The Hobbit* books to discover meals dished up in the fictional Shire.

Kerstin, from St Cuthberts Road, West Hampstead, who spent three days preparing the feast, said: "I love fantasy fiction and grew up on *The*

*Hobbit* and *Lord Of The Rings*, with my dad reading it to us at night. He used to put on all the voices – he did a good Gandalf – and sang the songs too, so when I saw the film coming out I thought I have to do something."

Seven fans stuffed their faces with homemade jams and seed cakes for elevenes before 11 others stopped by for a supper of sea bass baked in salt.